Oxford March 24 1818

An Inaugural Dissertation on Rheumatism.

Non ignarus mali, miseris succurrere disco.

Practical writers generally agree, in ascribing Rheumatism to improper exposure to cold and the few cases which have come within the limits of my observation, evidently serve to corroborate the fact.

In consequence of the changes and vicissitudes of weather, incident to many parts of our country, the rheumatism frequently occurs, and holds a rank among the most formidable of the diseases, which require the skill and attention of the practitioner.

Nosologists have divided rheumatism, into acute and chronic, I shall first treat of the acute, which generally precedes the latter, and to which our attention is consequently called. It generally makes its attack upon the joints; sometimes shooting along the course of the muscles, from one to another: The larger joints are most gen-

cally, aff
so also do

with a co
tions of
pulse.
as the sa
tion; they
acted in
and again
in his u

An
in the ex
the pains
been much
re and
the patie
the urine
sediment;
more cons

erally affected; though in the more aggravated cases, the smaller do not escape.

The disease for the most part, is ushered in with a cold stage, which is soon succeeded, by other symptoms of pyrexia, particularly a frequent, full, and hard pulse. The pains at this stage, affect several joints at the same time, and much pain is also produced by motion; they however frequently change their places & having abated in one joint, become more violent in another; and again they will return to the parts first affected: in this way the disease often continues for a long time.

An exacerbation of the fever, generally comes on in the evening, and is most considerable during the night, the pains also become more violent: the joints which have been much affected, commonly swell, become somewhat red and are painful to the touch. In this state the patient generally feels an alleviation of pain. The urine is highly colored in the beginning, without sediment; but as the remission of fever becomes more considerable, the urine deposits a pink col-

cured, se
tour, t
ria, wh
considered
symptom
most. A
Th
Sui renes
siderable
never bur
death
In
and has
By
causes of
draw a
arises from
dentor for
prononiton
Th
hum

oured sediment. The skin is generally hot to the touch, though often moist and emits an acid effluvia, which appears to be peculiar to the disease, and considered by some practitioners, as a characteristic symptom. The tongue is generally furred and rather moist. The blood has an inflammatory appearance.

Rheumatic inflammation appears to be sui generis -- for although, it often continues a considerable length of time; yet it has seldom, or never, been known, to terminate in suppuration, or death.

In many of its forms rheumatism resembles gout, and has in some instances been mistaken for it.

By particular attention to the symptoms & causes of the two diseases, we are generally able to draw a line of distinction. Rheumatism generally arises from exposure to cold; whilst gout arises evidently from a different cause. Rheumatism has no premonitory symptoms; but gout usually has.

Rheumatism is seated in the layer, and gout

in the
in the
form ha
tum rem
Lastly, -
garrie
Yl
prominent
matum,
it form g
the clinic
pienue has
c
high inf
together w
should neu
inflammat
should be
permitted -
any kind

in the smaller joints. There is also a difference in the appearance of rheumatic and gouty limbs; the former have not so red a colour as the latter. Rheumatism remits & intermits regularly; gout does not. Lastly, - Gout is acknowledged by many to be a gastric affection, rheumatism is not.

Having briefly enumerated some of the most prominent symptoms, which characterise acute rheumatism, and the way by which we can distinguish it from gout; by a natural transition, we pass to the delineation of that mode of practice, which experience has taught, to be best calculated to effect a cure.

As we conceive it principally to consist in a highly inflammatory state of the parts affected, together with an inflammatory diathesis, the practice should necessarily be very much directed, as in other inflammatory diseases. An antiphlogistic regimen should be strictly enjoined; the patient should not be permitted to indulge in the use of animal food, or any kind of stimulating liquor; substituting for

there a

The

vailant,

ly &

question

some prac

of pertinac

If the

circumstan

doubt som

if at all

there are

& northern

ribed b

it succeed,

too much

believe it

Nut to

only sta

my precep

there a low vegetable diet, and mild diluent drinks.

The lancet is undoubtedly the most powerful assailant, with which we can attack this disease; when early & judiciously employed, its beneficial effects are unquestionably great; nor should it be restricted (as some practitioners have contended, with no little degree of pertinacity) to the first two or three days.

The strength & state of the patient, are, however circumstances we should not lose sight of. There are no doubt some cases in which V. Sect. should be sparingly, if at all prescribed, after the first three days; but these are comparatively rare; particularly in the middle & northern sections of our country. The advocates for restricted bleeding, suppose that chronic rheumatism, when it succeeds the acute, is generally the consequence of too much depletion. This I doubt and on the contrary believe it is often the consequence of not using the lancet to a sufficient extent; particularly in the early stages. I once visited a young lady with my preceptor, who had been confined to her bed for

-ter day
acute r
to be m
stock g
and bo
pulse w
℥x blo
many
to be so

ty in a
ngular
gether

certainl
ny m
ho con

vacuat
propor

ten days with a most acute and intermittent attack of acute rheumatism. Every joint in her extremities appeared to be affected, so as to render it impossible for her to walk, or even to move her from one place to another. She had lost [illegible] lb. of flesh, and had been purged several times, although, on the whole, her nurse was sufficiently strong when she was in a state of health. The injurious measure induced by exposing many of these chronic cases, which are now supposed to be so often the consequence of rigorous treatment.

Amongst other cases I could state on good authority, in which the patient has been strongly irritated, but yet not established cases of other confirmation.

As regards to the cancer, purgatives should certainly be employed. Their effects are best marked in very many cases, and indeed there are some practitioners who conceive purging equally important with the knife.

A drastic purgative should be repeated at many months intervals, as a preventative purge, for a [illegible] exciting [illegible] [illegible], [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

urine or [illegible] [illegible] but when it does not, the application of blisters will be found eminently useful. I have never seen them applied without removing the pain. It is necessary in some cases to keep up a discharge [illegible] some time.

Dr. [illegible] informs us in his thesis dissertation on Gout, of a new remedy which in his hands has proved highly beneficial. I mean the Peruvian bark; for fifteen years [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] and trusts entirely to the bark, so that he has not lost above two [illegible] patients [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] says that when a practised [illegible] largely on [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] to take place and restore the patient. That this mode of practice may have [illegible] [illegible] with [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] I will not venture to deny. But [illegible] [illegible] that no practitioner in this country has ever [illegible] [illegible] in inflammatory rheumatism [illegible] [illegible] Peruvian bark [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] man, [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

became ent
my mother
years.

Unbiased
power, Oxyd
remedies he
my own exp
except mere
more
still however
which our

L.

Been afflicted
years, during
usual remed
advised he
which he
gums he
upon to va
partly relieve

became entirely relieved from all his pains, and if my recollection serves me, has remained free for several years.

Unbruised mustard seed, sarsaparilla, Opium, sulphur, oxyde of arsenic, mercury and several other remedies have been recommended; but speaking from my own experience, I should say but little for any except mercury. I have seen this medicine effect a cure more than once, when all others had failed. I shall however relate but one case, out of many, in which our medicine has effected a cure.

L. M. a man about 27 years of age, had been afflicted with chronic rheumatism, upwards of two years, during which time, he had resorted to many of the usual remedies, without receiving any benefit. I advised him, as his last resort, to try a salivation; to which he readily agreed; to my extreme satisfaction his gums had no sooner become affected, than the disease began to vanish, and in four or five weeks, he felt perfectly relieved from all his former symptoms.

67 #4 1

An
Inaugural Dissertation
on Rheumatism.

Cullen, defines Rheumatism, Pyrexia
out the parts, following the tract
les, attacking the knees, & larger
O. preference to those of the
used by external

On Rheumatism

by Wm T. Minor

of Virg.

Rejected Mar 27 1810